

# 1994 CALIFORNIA RECREATION POLICY

(Amended 5-4-94)

## PREAMBLE

Californians are entitled to the widest range of opportunities for diverse forms of recreation. Recreation is a human activity, an experience undertaken primarily for the satisfaction of the participant. In recreating, individuals creatively develop their innate capacities, intelligently use their energies and enrich their lives. Recreation is a necessary human need, essential for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the individual and of society. Adequate opportunities to participate in recreation activity should be provided to all Californians. In providing these recreation opportunities, full consideration should be given to the sensitivity and capacity of the environment and its resources.

The following 1994 California Recreation Policy statements indicate the opportunities, general scope and direction for all recreation and recreation-related programs and actions which will be undertaken or funded by the State. In addition, it provides clear indication of the objectives which the State desires for federal and local agencies of government, as well as for private and non-profit sector activities in the recreation field. These seventeen policy statements are not listed in any order of priority.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

### 1. Leadership

It is the responsibility of the State of California to provide leadership to ensure fulfillment of the people's need for recreation opportunities. It is further the responsibility of the State, through its Department of Parks and Recreation, to encourage and stimulate active and coordinated participation of appropriate federal, State and local agencies, as well as the private sector, in providing areas, facilities, equipment, leadership and services to meet the recreational needs of our people.

This State government leadership will encourage the recreation suppliers to become better coordinated and integrated with other appropriate resource management and human services agencies, so as to better provide a diverse range of accessible recreation services and strengthen the linkage between a person's recreation activity and the rest of their life's experience.

### 2. Opportunities

It is State policy that parks, open space lands, lake resources, reservoirs, river and riparian resources, seashores and beaches will be planned to optimize the opportunities for the myriad of recreation experiences without threatening or disturbing the natural or cultural resources of the area.

### 3. Equity

It is State policy that recreation facilities and programs be designated, operated and maintained to provide access to a wide range of opportunities for all segments of California's diverse populations, and that all citizens shall have fair and equitable access to attractive recreation opportunities that serve their needs and desires. Where individuals or groups encounter social, economic or physical barriers to obtaining recreation experiences, special effort will be made to overcome such barriers.

#### 4. Open Space

It is State policy that an adequate supply of open natural lands and developed park and recreation areas exist throughout California, so that all people can engage in near-home activities and recreation pursuits, as well as have opportunities to visit more distant locations for extended leisure time or vacation activities. Special emphasis will be given to the protection of open space in and near heavily developed urban areas.

#### 5. Urban Areas

It is State policy that emphasis be placed on providing parkland and developed recreation areas in and near urban areas, where most Californians live. In urban core areas with a heavily disadvantaged population experiencing a wide range of social and economic problems, park and recreation agencies and programs shall be coordinated with other appropriate social service programs in such fields as education, health care, housing, juvenile justice and social welfare. Full advantage will be taken of the commonalities among such agencies and their missions to provide better service to our citizens.

#### 6. Local Responsibility

It is State policy that government entities closest to the recreation resources and particularly to the sources of recreation demand have the primary responsibility for providing needed recreation opportunities. In urban and suburban areas, such responsibilities generally fall to local government, to agencies of the state's cities and counties, and to its special districts. The State, by means of grants and technical assistance, shall aid local government in the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of local park and recreation facilities. It is the responsibility of the State to take the lead where resources or recreation demand are of greater than regional significance.

#### 7. Efficiencies

It is State policy that the State's own recreation facilities and programs shall be provided by the most efficient, effective and economical means available. Where possible, recreation responsibilities at every level of government should be shared in partnership among a variety of appropriate government agencies, as well as the private and nonprofit sector, in order to find economies in budgeting, staffing, specialized expertise and facilities.

#### 8. Linkages

It is State policy to acquire and develop, for recreation, open space and habitat protection purposes, trail and landscape linkages between public lands operated by different jurisdictions. These linkages or corridors provide for important trail and river recreation opportunities between otherwise urban, industrial or agricultural areas. They are also critical in protecting ecological diversity by providing connections between larger protected habitat areas, minimizing the effects of habitat fragmentation.

#### 9. Access

It is State policy to encourage the use of public transportation to park and recreation facilities and to work with transportation providers to develop and improve such means of access.

#### 10. Cooperation

It is State policy that the private sector shall be encouraged to develop and operate a wide range of recreation resources and to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities on both private and appropriate public lands. All recreation providers, recognizing their prime importance in generating interest and attracting people, should work closely with State and local tourism groups and chambers of commerce.

## 11. Volunteers

It is State policy that the people of California have the opportunity to participate as volunteers in the operation of recreation facilities and the operation of recreation programs. Such volunteerism benefits the volunteers through offering them satisfying activity and in doing so provides the public with services that would not otherwise be available.

## 12. Land Acquisition

It is State policy that adequate supplies of land be acquired through a selective acquisition program sufficient to meet the future needs of the public. Such a program should emphasize lands in urban and coastal areas, as well as lands with valuable natural and cultural resources. Acquisition should not be limited to the acquisition of fee title, but shall include--as appropriate--land trades, leasing, joint ownership and the purchase of selected rights and easements.

## 13. Information

It is State policy that varied educational, informational and outreach programs be undertaken and information distributed about recreation opportunities to all segments of the population so that access is not limited by lack of information. This includes interpretive efforts in park and recreation areas, as well as off-site efforts in such locations as government gatherings sites and buildings, such as schools and libraries, as well as at commercial centers.

## 14. Education

It is State policy to encourage public and private educational systems within the state to provide opportunities for students to develop a wide range of leisure interests and skills. This policy shall encourage colleges and universities to maintain and improve their academic leadership programs.

## 15. Recreation Ethic

It is the responsibility of the State and other government agencies to develop and foster an environmental ethic and a sensitivity among all Californians that will ensure the recognition that the state's natural and cultural resources are the real wealth of our state and thus the basis from which our common good is derived. In this context, the concept of resource protection should extend to such broad matters as air quality, water quality, control of toxics, solid waste management, and the like. The point is to encourage people to recreate carefully and wisely with a view towards the needs of future generations of recreationists who will also want quality opportunities.

## 16. Natural and Cultural Resources

It is State policy that parklands and recreation areas, whether public or private, be managed so that the special and important environmental, ecological, scenic and cultural resources they contain, and which constitute a public trust, are protected and interpreted for the benefit of future generations. Special consideration shall be given to the protection of sensitive, rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats and to the restoration of important habitats, such as wetlands, that have been degraded.

## 17. Safety

It is State policy that Californians be provided recreation facilities that are safe and secure.

# **Outdoor Recreation Code of Ethics**

## **Individual Rights**

1. Every person has a right to a clean, healthy, and varied outdoor environment in which to live and play.
2. Every person has the right to enjoy the benefits of the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being that come from recreation in the outdoors.
3. Every person, regardless of ability, has the right of access to public lands consistent with the protection of the underlying natural and cultural resources.
4. Every person has the right to enjoy outdoor experiences free from the insensitive actions of, and concerns of harm by, others.

## **Individual Responsibilities**

1. We will protect outdoor recreation resources, including the special natural and cultural features that distinguish the places set aside for outdoor recreation and the user facilities put there for our comfort, convenience, and safety.
2. We will be careful not to damage outdoor recreation resources through carelessness, misuse, or other inappropriate actions.
3. We will show respect for the rights of other people by not engaging in activities that would detract from their outdoor recreational experiences.
4. We will learn and follow the laws and rules that govern the use of the outdoor recreation areas that we wish to use.
5. We will make our feelings on issues known to the agencies that manage the places that we use for our recreation.